

human life—from the leper on the streets of Calcutta, to the ailing AIDS victim in New York, to the unborn child inside a mother's womb. Her passion for protecting all human life was clear when she spoke to Members of Congress at the National Prayer Breakfast in February 1994. She said,

I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?

She continuously reminded people around the world of the plight of those weakest in the world; those least able to protect themselves. In 1979, she received the Nobel Peace Prize and accepted the award "in the name of the hungry, the naked, the homeless, of the crippled, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared-for throughout society, people that have become a burden to society and are shunned by everyone."

Mother Teresa touched the lives of those most in need in this world and she inspired others to service in every corner of the globe. Certainly the work she performed in her life was miraculous, and I have no doubt that those in need will continue to find solace and comfort in Mother Teresa and the continuing work that her missions still perform.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FOR IRAQIS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to discuss something that I consider a major cornerstone to any free society—religious freedom.

I recently offered an amendment during the markup that would condition the money going to the Coalition Provisional Authority, CPA, by ensuring the preservation of "full rights to religious freedom for all individuals, including a prohibition on laws which would criminalize blasphemy and apostasy." The first part of that phrase, "full rights to religious freedom for all individuals," is extremely important given the recent historical record on constitutions that established Islam as the official religion of the state. Pakistan is an Islamic Republic in which the constitution extends some rights to groups to engage in their religious practices.

However, the constitution does not allow for the freedom of conscience of individual believers, either within different sects of Islam or for those wishing to convert. Therefore, the biggest danger may be to those who do not subscribe to the prevailing interpretation of Islam. With the Afghan constitution just now coming to light, the international community and the Afghan people are slowly becoming aware that their constitution will not preserve their individual right to believe what they wish.

On October 1, 2003, the New York Times published an op-ed piece written

by members of the United States Commission on Religious Freedom which precisely outlined the significant importance of only supporting a constitution that, and I quote, "clearly and unequivocally enshrines human rights and religious freedom." We must not settle for anything less and we must not encourage the Afghan people to settle for any less. As stated in the article, "After all, it is not just Afghanistan's future that is at stake. Iraqis are watching to see what minimum standards of individual rights will be acceptable to the United States."

In addition, the last part of the phrase which would prohibit criminalization of blasphemy and apostasy is equally as important. As much as the constitution must be absolutely secular, those who would freely renounce their faith, apostasy, or those who would speak out profanely against religion, blasphemy, must have their rights preserved. The freedom of religion is more than just the ability to practice one's faith, but is central to other rights and freedoms, including a free press, public assembly, free speech or the right to petition the government. All of these freedoms will be circumscribed if religious freedom is not part of an Iraqi constitution and a reconstituted Iraq.

My amendment, which also appears in the House language, would also require the President to submit a report to the Congress every 90 days detailing efforts to make religious freedom a major tenet of the Iraqi constitution. If Secretary Powell's recent statement is correct, then there should be a constitution in six months. That would, at most, require two reports on the status of the constitution if completed within 6 months.

In my view, religious freedom is the bedrock on which freedom, hope and progress rest and should be a top priority as we discuss the many foreign policy issues at hand.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times op-ed article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Oct. 1, 2003]

SILENCED AGAIN IN KABUL

(By Preeta D. Bansal and Felice D. Gaer)

WASHINGTON.—American efforts to build a democratic, tolerant Afghanistan are facing a serious challenge: the draft of the Afghan constitution, which may be made public as early as this week, does not yet provide for crucial human rights protections, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The United States and the international community should insist that the draft presented by the constitutional commission explicitly protect these core human rights for all Afghans.

Despite reports to the contrary, the current draft versions of the constitution enshrine particular schools of Islamic law, or Shariah, that criminalize dissent and criticism of Islam through blasphemy laws.

If this draft is ratified in December by the *loya jirga*, or grand council, the freedoms of Afghan citizens would continue to be in the

hands of judges educated in Islamic law, rather than in civil law. Official charges of blasphemy, apostasy or other religious crimes could still be used to suppress debate, just as they were under the Taliban.

Making changes in the draft is all the more important because, as Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission and the United Nations' Assistance Mission in Afghanistan have reported, Afghan reformers seeking to express their views on their new constitution have been hindered by threats, harassment and even imprisonment. In one case, an editor and a reporter have been charged with blasphemy for publishing an article questioning the role of Islam in the state.

On our recent trip to Kabul as members of the bipartisan United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, we met many Muslims who recognize the compatibility of Islam with human rights. Yet these Muslims are being intimidated into silence by vocal and well-armed extremists.

Freedom-loving Afghans won't be able to rely on conscientious judges to protect religious freedom without an explicit reference to it in the constitution. Afghanistan's chief justice, Fazl Hadi Shinwari, for example, has shown little regard for those who disagree with his hard-line interpretation of Islam. He told us that he accepted the international standards protected by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights—with three exceptions: freedom of expression, freedom of religion and equality of the sexes. "This is the only law," the chief justice told us, pointing to the Koran on his desk.

Even in a self-proclaimed Islamic republic, however, all citizens, Muslims as well as non-Muslims, must be free to debate the role of religion and to question prevailing orthodoxies without fear of being subjected to trials, prison or death. At a minimum, Afghan leaders should amend the draft constitution to specifically ensure the human rights guarantees that Afghanistan has already accepted and ratified in six international treaties. Afterward, the United States must ensure the safety of reformers who want to speak out at the *loya jirga* to ensure that the constitution of Afghanistan makes possible a free and just society based on the rule of law.

While respecting that Afghans should determine their own future, United States officials must not let a "hands off" policy lead to political conditions that will embolden repression and enable a few to hijack the future from the many Afghans who hope to embrace freedom.

After all, it is not just Afghanistan's future that is at stake. Iraqis are watching to see what minimum standards of individual rights will be acceptable to the United States. Unfortunately, the message that the Afghan draft constitution is giving Iraq is the wrong one. We should instead send our own message to President Hamid Karzai, to Afghan officials and to the Afghan people: Americans will only support a state with a constitution that clearly and unequivocally enshrines human rights and religious freedom.

COST ESTIMATE FOR S. 300

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for S. 300, the Jackie Robinson Congressional Gold Medal bill, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: